

Message Text

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EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE FROM CHARGE

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, SECRETARY HENRY A.)

SUBJ: THE SECRETARY'S AFRICAN TRIP

1. JANUARY 26 USIS WIRELESS FILE CARRIES STORY INDICATION SECRETARY WILL VISIT NIGERIA, ZAIRE, TANZANIA, ZAMBIA AND KENYA. IF STORY IS CORRECT, I STRONGLY URGE THAT FURTHER CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO ADDING LIBERIA TO THE ITINERARY IF ONLY FOR A STOP-OVER OF A FEW HOURS. MY REASONS ARE SET FORTH BELOW.

2. PRESIDENT TOLBERT CONSIDERS LIBERIA THE OLDEST AND BEST FRIEND THE U.S. HAS IN AFRICA (AND VICE VERSA). HE BELIEVES HE HAS EXERTED EXTRA EFFORT IN AFRICA ON OUR BEHALF ON THE ANGOLA SITUATION AND OTHER MATTERS OF CONCERN TO US. WHEN HE READS OR HEARS OF SECRETARY'S ITINERARY, HE SIMPLY WILL NOT UNDERSTAND WHY HE IS BEING BY-PASSED ON A TRIP DURING WHICH VISITS WILL BE MADE TO NATIONS WHOSE GOVERNMENTS ARE CREATING DIFFICULT PROBLEMS FOR TWO LEADERS HE HOLDS IN THE HIGHEST ESTEEM. IN THE AFRICAN CONTEXT, OLD AND DEAR FRIENDS DO NOT BEHAVE IN THIS MANNER. IN ADDITION TOLBERT AND DENNIS WILL NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE ONLY WEST AFRICAN STOP IS IN A COUNTRY THAT IS OPENLY OPPOSING US WHILE THOSE WHO SUPPORT US ARE IGNORED.

3. I EARNESTLY BELIEVE THAT FAILURE OF SECRETARY TO VISIT LIBERIA ON HIS FIRST VISIT TO AFRICA WILL HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON RELATIONS WITH LIBERIA. I CAN SEE CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE CABINET AND

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SENIOR GOL OFFICIALS WHO NORMALLY TAKE A NEGATIVE STANCE TOWARD

THE U.S. USING THIS AS A VERBAL CLUB TO CONVINCE THEIR COLLEAGUES THAT THE USG NEITHER CARES ABOUT NOR TAKES SERIOUSLY THE INTERESTS AND CONCERNS OF THE GOL. THE LEVEL OF OUR DELEGATION TO THE RECENT INAUGURATION WAS USED IN THIS MANNER. FORTUNATELY THE PERSONALITIES AND INTELLIGENCE OF THE DELEGATION MEMBERS OVERCAME THE ADVERSE INITIAL REACTION.

4. I FULLY APPRECIATE THE MANY CONSIDERATIONS THAT MUST HAVE GONE INTO CONSTRUCTING THE SECRETARY'S ITINERARY. I ALSO APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT HE CAN NOT VISIT EVERY COUNTRY THAT MIGHT WISH TO RECEIVE HIM. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THAT LIBERIA CONSTITUTES A SPECIAL CASE AND THAT THE INVESTMENT OF THREE OR FOUR HOURS OF THE SECRETARY'S TIME COULD PAY SIGNIFICANT DIVIDENDS ON OUR RELATIONS WITH LIBERIA AND OTHER SMALL WEST AFRICAN STATES WHO TEND TO BE ON OUR SIDE ON MANY ISSUES WE CONSIDER IMPORTANT. I PROPOSE THAT THE SECRETARY MAKE A BRIEF STOP-OVER HERE ENROUTE TO NIGERIA. EMBASSY C-12A COULD PICK HIM UP AT ROBERTS FIELD AND FLY HIM TO SPRIGGS PAYNE AIRPORT (APPROXIMATELY TEN MINUTE FLIGHT). HE COULD BE DRIVEN TO EXECUTIVE MANSION (IN ABOUT TEN MINUTES), CALL ON PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER AND THEN RETURN TO ROBERTS AND RESUME JOURNEY TO NIGERIA. TOLBERT WOULD UNDERSTAND THE SHORTNESS OF THE VISIT BUT WOULD BE DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE SECRETARY'S HAVING TAKEN THE TIME TO STOP.

5. PRESIDENT TOLBERT AND FONMIN DENNIS WILL BE RETURNING FROM KAMPALA JANUARY 29. I EXPECT EITHER OR BOTH OF THEM WILL CALL ME IN WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS TO BRIEF ME ON THE DISCUSSION WITH AMIN, MOBUTU AND BOKASSA. IF SECRETARY'S ITINERARY HAS BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE I AM SURE I WILL BE ASKED WHY LIBERIA NOT INCLUDED. I WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE SOONEST.
BEAN

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